

Council on Postsecondary Education
March 24, 2006

Committee on Equal Opportunities Report

The Committee on Equal Opportunities met Monday, February 20, 2006. The status of initiatives and recurring activities related to the implementation of the Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities, the partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, and the Committee on Equal Opportunities follows:

- The CEO expressed support for the effort by the special workgroup to increase the level of merit for the KEES secondary pool by raising the minimum ACT score for participation to 18. The committee was pleased that the Kentucky Board of Education voted to implement the single rigorous curriculum but suggested that the entire curriculum be implemented immediately.
- The CEO expressed concern that the SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity program still lacks recurring General Fund support in the biennial budget.
- The CEO received a special interim report by the University of Kentucky regarding the actions being taken to address the recent downturn in enrollment of African Americans as first-time freshmen. The committee complimented the university on its active engagement in reviewing “what went wrong and also identifying strong initiatives to address the difficulty.”
- The CEO received an interim report by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System regarding the actions being taken by the respective districts to address the recent downturn in enrollment of African Americans as first-time freshmen and the actions being taken to implement CEO recommendations from the September 2005 campus visit report.
- The CEO discussed conducting campus visits to KCTCS districts. The committee requested that staff develop a draft visit schedule for discussion at its April 17 meeting.
- The CEO expressed concern that the KCTCS board of regents does not have any representation from the African American community and asked the committee chair to raise this concern with the CPE and, if necessary, to write the Governor urging him to give strong consideration to this lack of representation during the next round of appointments in 2006.
- The CEO requested that CPE staff move forward to issue the request for proposals (RFP) to conduct a statewide diversity assessment to support the development of a new Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities or a diversity plan.